

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY *W/secret* East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Military Land Lines in  
East Germany: A Study

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

study entitled "East-West Over-  
head Lines of the Soviet Army in East Germany"

The three-page report,  
which also includes a sketch of Soviet over-  
head lines as of early 1958 with explanatory text.

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AREA: Soviet Zone Germany

SUBJECT: The East-West Overhead Lines of the Soviet Army

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I. Construction Period

A. In 1951 and 1952, several overhead lines were built in the Soviet Zone on commission from the Soviet Army. These overhead lines ran from East to West, that is, from the border of the territory under Polish administration to the border of the Federal Republic.

The following links of these overhead lines are known: (See also Inclosures 1 and 2)

1. Usedom-Schwerin-Selmsdorf
2. Grönzendorf (Stettin)-Neubrandenburg-Ludwigslust-Dömitz
3. Gildendorf-Magdeburg
4. Forst-Cottbus-Halle-Nordhausen
5. Görlitz-Dresden-Eisenach
6. Dresden-Leipzig

B. From about 1954 to 1957, the following East-West overhead lines were built in the vicinity of Berlin:

1. Küstrin-Biesenthal
2. Küstrin-(Herzfeld) Berlin  
The overhead lines in the vicinity of Berlin end for the most part in Herzfelde, and from there proceed as cables to Karlshorst.
3. Guben-Cottbus-Nüterbog

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C. About 1958, a transverse connection was built between the northern overhead lines from Anklam to Neubrandenburg.

## II. Technical Equipment and Operation

From 1957 to February 1959, ever increasing numbers of overhead insulators were ordered in the Soviet Zone by the Soviet Army.

The Soviet Army picked up, from time to time, deliveries of quantities varying from 200,000 to 300,000 pieces from the factory.

The overhead lines' common designation is I-A, and as far as is known, are equipped with two double lines of 3 mm copper for TF operation, and with 3 double lines of 4 mm iron for NF operation.

On parts of the lines, <sup>transposed</sup> the turnstile construction method was observed.

In 1954 a <sup>transposition</sup> turnstile line with 3,2 mm copper wire was put into operation

on the Jüterbog-Zossen link for the Soviet Army. The lines all have wide voice bands, and in early 1958 were still being kept in operating condition, at great expense, by the Post Office, that is, to the extent that the Soviet Army itself did not use, service or guard them.

(See Inclosure No. 2, Kietz-Berlin line) For example, the Post Office operates some circuits for civilian traffic on the Ludwigslust-Neubrandenburg link. On this link, postal repeater stations will be used opposite the lines, operated by the Soviet Army, on which the repeaters and exchanges of the Soviet Army are installed.

## III. Purpose of the Overhead Lines

The overhead line links in the Soviet Zone are regarded by the postal authorities as telecommunications facilities for the higher echelons of the Soviet Army in case of war. The Soviets are of the opinion that

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overhead lines can be better guarded and protected by patrols from unauthorized tapping than can cables.

The individual lines run over the eastern border of the Soviet zone farther eastward. The Jitterbog-Cuben link is said to lead to Rumania.

The Oder crossing at Kietz is by cable, but the Neisse is crossed by an overhead line at Forst.

### Conclusion

The reported overhead lines are to be regarded as the main axes of the East-West wire telecommunication of the Soviet Army in the Soviet Zone. The erection of these overhead lines took place about the same time as the reported completion of the overhead telecommunications network in Rumania, which was executed according to the guiding principles of the Soviet mobilization plan.

In both cases, the overhead lines erected in case of mobilization are in part serviced and operated by the Post Office for civilian traffic. It can be assumed that in other European satellites also that a large overhead telecommunications network is being kept in operational condition for the Soviet Army.

Inclosure No. 1. Sketch of the Soviet Overhead Lines as of the beginning of 1958.

\_\_\_\_\_ Overhead line route  
 - - - - - Unconfirmed route  
 ▼ Repeater Station

See Inclosure No. 2 for explanation of the overhead lines.

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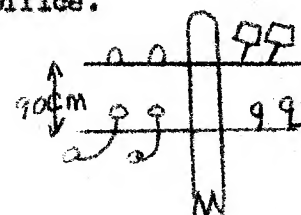
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## Inclosure No. 2. Explanation to Inclosure No. 1

Overhead Line No.	Link	Year of Completion	Remarks
TF 310	Usedom-Selmsdorf	End 1952	Building Agency: Post Office.
TF 210	Grenzdorf-Dömitz	Begin Nov 51 End May 52	3 mm Cu 4 mm Fe Builder: OPD Schwerin.
TF-910 or 209	Forst-Nordhausen	About 1952	5 double lines, pole diagram supposedly like TF-210 Builder: supposedly Post Office.
TF-612	Dresden-Leipzig	Before 1954	More precise route unknown Builder: supposedly Post Office.
TF-613	Görlitz-Eisenach	About 1952	More precise route unknown Builder: supposedly Post Office.
Unknown No. 1	Anklam-Neubrandenburg	About 1958	Transverse connection between TF 210 and TF 310.
Unknown No. 2	Kietz-Biesenthal	About 1957	More precise route unknown Oder crossing is a six pair cable.
Unknown No. 3	Kietz-Berlin	End 1956	This line is guarded by patrols of double strength of the Soviet Army. Supposedly the line ends in Herzfelde; it crosses the Oder at Kietz
Unknown No. 4	Gülden-dorf-Magdeburg	-	More precise route unknown. The existence of this overhead is not confirmed.
Unknown No. 5	Güben-Jüterbog	Begin and end probably 1954	40 long distance conversations can be con- ducted on this line at the same time. Builder and Maintenance: Soviet Army. This line con-

POLE DIAGRAM



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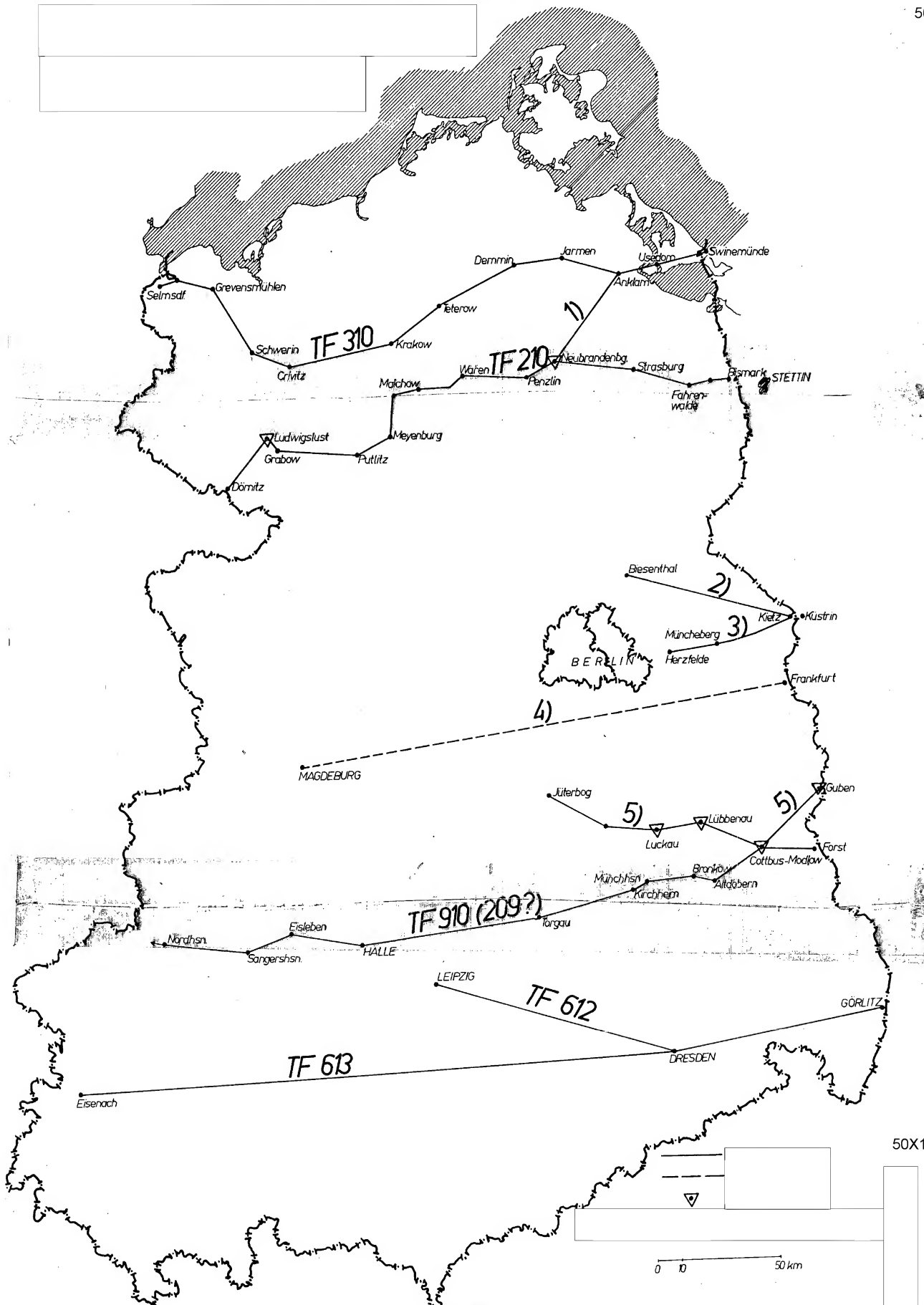
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